

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s):	Hal H. Trieu	Examiner:	Anu Ramana
Serial No.:	10/717,693	Art Unit:	3775
Filed:	November 20, 2003	Dated:	December 22, 2009
For:	<b>SYSTEMS AND TECHNIQUES FOR INTRAVERTEBRAL SPINAL STABILIZATION WITH EXPANDABLE DEVICES</b>		

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION INCLUDING AMENDMENT**

Examiner:

This amendment is being submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed October 27, 2009 ("Office Action"), which set a shortened statutory period of three months for response and is being filed timely by the Two Month Date upon mailing with an executed Certificate of Mailing on or before December 27, 2009. (37 C.F.R. 1.8). It is believed that this response does not occasion any additional fees or extensions of time, but should there be any need for such an extension of time please treat this paper as such and charge (or credit) any extension fees, or any additional fees that may be due herein, to Deposit Account No. 04-1121. Entry of the amendments to the claims herein is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2; and

Remarks begin on page 7.

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**Certificate of EFS-Web Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via the Office's electronic filing system on December 22, 2009.

Dated: December 22, 2009

/PeterBSorell/  
Peter B. Sorell